UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: 5 November 1979

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Computer Security Sub-Committee

Serial: T4/456/79

SUBJECT: Contractor Sharing of Computers

TO: Chairman, Security Committee

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    The attached memo was prepared by Computer Security Sub-Committee member [   ] (CIA) and [   ] (DIA) at my request. The reason for the memo is to alert you to an increasing problem of a single contractor doing work for more than one government agency. Our particular concern is the sharing of computers for multiple contracts, but the general problem of overall security supervisors and general use of physical facilites

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may be of interest to your committe

                          Chairman
Computer Security Sub-Committee

Encl:
  a/s

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 7-76)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-112

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD   5 November 1979

SUBJECT: Contractor Sharing of Computers

    1.   Numerous contractor organizations utilize ADP equipment for
processing and storing SCI information. Traditionally, the approved
method for processing such classified material is either to dedicate a
computer system to process compartmented data only, or to allocate a
specific number of hours on a computer for single compartment processing.
The latter method is known as "periods processing" and requires sanitiza-
tion procedures before and after the dedicated period. Both dedicated
and periods processing type operations can degrade the efficiency of the
computer resources. They are particularly not cost effective for the
contractors if changes in the type of data processed are frequent, or if
the machines cannot be utilized full time. For this reason, contractors
wish to utilize more economical alternatives for processing data. They
are now seeking advice and guidance to achieve eventual system security
approval. The problem is compounded when a single contractor utilizes
the same ADP system to satisfy contractual obligations for multiple NFIB
customers.

    2.   The issues, stemming from contractor proposals for alternate
data processing methods, relate to regulations, areas of jurisdiction
and NFIB resources. First, current regulations are not always sufficiently
detailed to provide complete guidance for the different contractor
situations. Regulations will be reviewed by the CSS with a view to
producing standard contractor ADP security policy for inclusion in DCID
1/16. Secondly, guidelines must be formulated to establish a cognizant
computer security authority for each facility where NFIB members share
contractor computer facilities. This authority would monitor the operation
for security and effectiveness and would be the focal point for arbitration
when problems arise. Lastly, the problem of resources must be faced.
At present, no single NFIB member has the resources or overall expertise
to devote full time effort to resolving the many computer security
issues in dealing with the contractors. Therefore, methods for augmenting
these resources and reducing unnecessary duplication of effort will be
investigated.

    3.   This paper is intended to alert SECOM of a trend in the computer
processing of SCI data by contractors which requires policy review and
will increase the demands upon ADP security resources of the NFIB members.
As CSS work progresses and recommendations are developed, the results
will be forwarded to SECOM for information and concurrence.

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